

deficient in lively faith,—but it is to be hoped, that many prayers have ascended from that house, as the incense of grateful hearts, and have entered into the ears of the “hearer and answerer of prayers.”

That pulpit from which so many sermons have been delivered with the view of instilling the pure doctrines, and the salutary truths of the blessed gospel into the hearts of the hearers, for their edification, regeneration and salvation. And if in some hearts the seed has fallen on barren, or stony soil, yet I trust we have grounds for believing that in others, it has taken root, sprang up and brought forth fruit. But of all these things God is the judge, and for all these privileges and talents we shall be called to the most strict account. And lastly, those walls, which have enclosed the mortal remains of those near and dear to many of you, and within which, many of you have, no doubt, looked forward that your lifeless bodies should receive the last solemn services of religion. These, brethren, are the objects which you have lost, which were rendered valuable and dear from various associations.

That edifice consecrated to the worship of God, for the erection of which, many who now hear me persevered and labored, and over the completion of which, they rejoiced? What has become of it? Over its ashes you sigh, you mourn, you shed the silent tear; that temple with its altar, its bible, books of devotion and its vestments have fallen a sacrifice in the space of one short hour to the sacrilegious incendiary.

And what is his character? Is he a fiend or an enemy. What is his purpose and design? Was it God's glory, the peace of this community, or the welfare of yourselves and children?

Is he still roaming about among us? seeking the destruction of the roofs, and possibly of the lives of some of us? Surely this is an awfully fearful state for any people to realize in a Christian land, and are we insensible or indifferent? If not, then let us turn our faces against the deed, against the originators, perpetrators, and also the approvers, and rest not till they are made manifest, and expelled from our doors, that we and our families may rest in peace.

I mention the approvers, by whom I mean any man or woman, who has ever professed an interest in that Church, or that has ever worshipped within its walls, every one of whatever religious denomination, calling themselves Christians, that look upon those ashes with indifference, or can make that sacrilegious deed a by-word, an object of laughter and ridicule, I would even include all who do not heartily abhor the crime, and the doer, who fail to express their regret that persons could exist among us capable of such deeds of darkness, who, to say the least, do not